

# Kids: Getting Messy!

How many times have you been told to clean your room, do the dishes, take out the trash? *You* may have to be tidy, but some artists are all about being messy!





**A:: Gallery 1** *Morris Louis, Dalet Tet, 1959*

This artist used a technique called **staining**. He would pour the paint on a slanted canvas and let the colors run down and overlap. His floor must have been covered in paint! Do you ever use paint to make a messy picture?

**B:: Gallery 8** *Alberto Giacometti, Standing Woman, about 1958*

Did the artist forget to finish this lumpy-looking sculpture? Actually, he wanted it to look just the way it does. Although the sculpture is **bronze** (a kind of metal), the artist first made it in a messy material called **plaster** that he could shape with his hands and with tools—kind of like when you make things with clay or Play-Doh. Have you ever made a lumpy, bumpy Play-Doh person?

**C:: Gallery 35** *Claude Monet, Water Lilies, about 1922*

This artist was part of a group called the **Impressionists**, who started getting messy with paint to give impressions—or a kind of quick, blurry sketch—of landscapes, instead of making them look as real as possible. When you step back from this picture, what do you see? What do you see when you get up close? (But not too close! Don't step inside the tape on the floor.)

**D:: Gallery 15** *In the Style of Bernard Palissy, Dish, about 1575–1600*

This dish is an example of **rustic ware**—pottery that looks like it's covered with slimy plants and animals (mmm... dinner). This big plate would be great to eat messy food out of, like spaghetti and meatballs. What's your favorite kind of messy food?

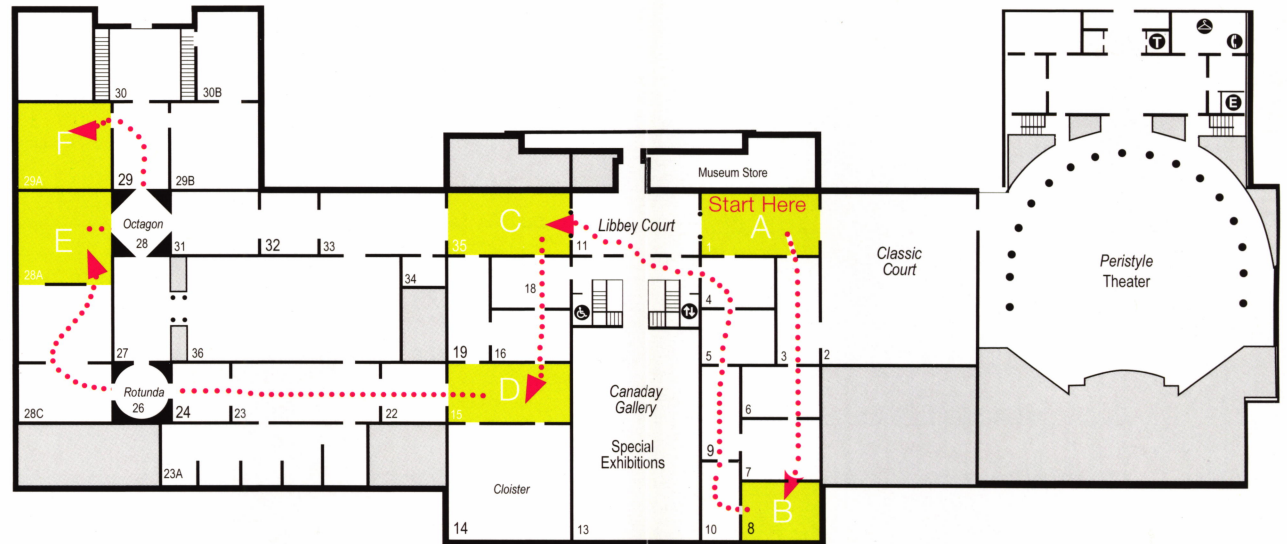
**E:: Gallery 28B** *Jean-Siméon Chardin, The Washerwoman, about 1733–39*

Next time you complain about doing your chores, think about how hard this woman had to work to do the laundry. Before washing machines, she would have had to scrub clothes by hand on a metal washboard in boiling hot water. No rubber gloves, either!

**F:: Gallery 29A** *Japanese Tea Ceremony Room*

This room is the opposite of messy. In Japanese culture, the **tea ceremony** takes place in a small, neat space like this one, called a *tokonoma* (toe-koh-no-mah). No one better spill the milk! Despite the simple room, the utensils they used for drinking tea were often beautifully decorated. Look for other things in this gallery that could be used for making tea.

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## Now it's *your* turn to be messy!

Use this space to write or draw about your favorite messy activity! If you're going to use messy materials, like paint (not in the Museum, please!), make sure to lay down some newspaper first, and clean up afterwards (make your parents happy).

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